NER'eastah
Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

July
Volume 4 - Issue 2

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NLM | NN/LM | NER

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N E R ' e a s t a h

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AD-Perspective

NER ANNOUNCES OUTREACH SUBCONTRACT RFP

NNLM-NER announces the availability of support for extended outreach projects in the areas of Consumer Health and Public Health outreach.

Over the past 3 years 13 member libraries have run 22 outreach projects in direct service to patrons who would otherwise not have access to health information.

Projects can serve consumers, multi-type librarians, allied and public health workers. Funds are available through competitive outreach subcontracts issued to NNLM members. Up to $40,000 is available for each program area. Projects proposed will be selected with the help of the NER's Outreach Subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Council and are subject to approval by the National Library of Medicine.

Proposals should be submitted to the NNLM-NER by October 15, 2004. We anticipate projects would begin January 2005 and would have an end date not later than March 31, 2006.

Here is a brief description of the two subcontract programs:

Health Information for the Public (aka Consumer Health RFP): The primary purpose of the Health Information for the Public outreach subcontract is to assist member libraries in providing librarians in the NN/LM NER to provide information services and training to groups that do not have access to medical information.

Potential partners for the award might be local public libraries, community health centers, Community based-organizations, or school libraries.

The full Request for Proposal and instructions is available at:
http://nnlm.gov/ner/RFPs/consumer_rfp_y04.html

The primary purpose of the Health Information for Public Health Professionals Outreach Subcontract is to assist health sciences librarians in the NN/LM NER in providing information services and training to public health workers who do not have access to health information. Potential partners for the project might be local public health organizations, state public health organizations, school health nurses, community based health agencies, or other groups who serve public health needs.

The full Request for Proposal and instructions is available at:
http://nnlm.gov/ner/RFPs/publichealth_rfp_y04.html

Depending on the proposed projects, there can be more than one subcontract selected for each program area. A list of NER funded outreach projects is available at: http://nnlm.gov/ner/FundedProjects.html (This list also includes projects funded through separate outreach RFPs from NLM)

If you are considering an outreach project please feel free to contact me via Email: javier.crespo@umassmed.edu or 508/856.2223.

NER ANNOUNCES FUNDED PROJECTS FROM NLM'S Access to Electronic Health Information RFP

In addition to the 22 past and present outreach projects, three new projects have been approved by NLM. These projects took part in NLM's 2004 competitive RFP. Projects were either reviewed and scored locally by NER's Outreach Committee or reviewed by a committee at NLM. While all three projects serve consumers, they vary emphasis and approach. The following projects have been approved

Holyoke Consumer Health Library Inc. Holyoke, MA

Holyoke Consumer Health Library, Inc. will support and enhance access to reliable health information in coordination with six Community Partners (Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke Health Center, Mercy Women's Health Center, Girls Incorporated of Holyoke, and the Holyoke Council on Aging. The vision of the project is to create a network of consumer health access stations at health and human service agencies in Holyoke, MA. A Consumer Health Information Coordinator will train staff at site to use NLM consumer health databases and will work with agency staff to plan and conduct outreach to their clients, including low-income Spanish speaking consumers, women seeking health care, pregnant and parenting teenagers, families raising vegetables in community gardens, teens at the Holyoke Teen Center, elders at the Senior Center, and the general public.

JSI Center for Environmental Health Studies Boston, MA

Informed Communities: Environmental Health Initiative will assist residents of Dorchester, MA to access, understand, and apply environmental health information. Partners include the Dorchester branch libraries of the Boston Public Library system and the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition. The project will train environmental and community advocates, health professionals, librarians, and public health workers by showing them how to

access environmental health information via the Internet, how to evaluate available information critically and how to disseminate information to community members. The long term goal of the project is to create a cadre of environmental health resources leaders available in the neighborhood of Dorchester.

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Lamar Soutter Library Worchester, MA

The University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School Lamar Soutter Library, in collaboration with the UMass Medical School Department of Psychiatry and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, will develop the e-Mental Health in Central Massachusetts. "e-mental health" refers to mental health services and information delivered or enhanced through the Internet to improve access to evidence-based information and decision making for professionals and consumers. The purpose of e-Mental Health in Central Massachusetts is to provide an integrative information web-based resource, training, reference and document delivery services. This program will target an underserved population and will build on the success of a recently completed NLM funded project to teach parents and pediatric agency staff to find and assess the quality of health information on the Internet. The target population is mental health agencies, mental health care providers and consumers of mental health information.

For a list of all funded projects from NLM's recent RFP please go to:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/nnlmelectronic04.html

Javier Crespo, Associate Director

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ILL ADVISED

- ## New Hampshire/Vermont Electronic Document Delivery Project

- ## Hospital Library Task Force

- ## Systems Updates

    - Docline 2.2

    - OCLC-to-DOCLINE Batch Update Program

    - Level 2 SERHOLD Records

    - E-Journals in SERHOLD

    - DOCLINE Statistical Reports

- ## Network Numbers

- ## Former DOCLINE Participants

- ## New Members Listing

- ## Contact Info

New Hampshire/Vermont Electronic Document Delivery Project

To replicate the success of the Maine EDD project, hospital libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont will begin their own EDD project this Fall. The goal of the NH/VT EDD project is to improve the document delivery capabilities of smaller hospital libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Objectives for the project are:

1. To provide health science librarians with firsthand experience with EDD technology;
2. To encourage the incorporation of EDD into the resource sharing workflow; and
3. To increase resource sharing among rural members within the state

Through the project, libraries will purchase and install necessary hardware and software that enables library staff to send and receive interlibrary loan articles. Some participating libraries have requested upgrades to ARIEL software. Other libraries have requested document scanners to be used independently, or in conjunction with the ARIEL software. This option was given so libraries can develop their EDD service according to their own volume and specific workflow.

The primary document delivery provider for the project will be the University of Vermont's Dana Medical Library (UVM). As directed, UVM will be able to electronically send requested documents to the requesting library's patrons. The eleven (11) participating libraries are:

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS
1. Androscoggin Valley Hospital (Berlin, NH)
2. Catholic Medical Center, (Manchester, NH)

3. Copley Hospital (Morrisville, VT)

4. LRGHealthcare/Lakes Refion General Hospital (Laconia, NH)

5. Littleton Regional Hospital (Littleton, NH)

6. The Memorial Hospital (North Conway, NH)

7. North Countway Hospital (Newport, VT)

8. Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (St. Johnsbury, VT)

9. Northwestern Medical Center (St. Albans, VT)

10. Rutland Regional Medical Center (Rutland, VT)

11. Southern NH Medical Center (Nashual, NH)

Participating libraries will receive purchase awards to acquire the hardware and/or software. On purchase of hardware or software libraries will be given a period of time to install and implement their EDD workflow.

The NER office is a sponsor for the project with the University of Vermont's Dana Medical Library as the principal. A July kickoff meeting was held at the VA Hospital in White River Junction, VT, to discuss project particulars and timelines.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY TASK FORCE

The RML's mission is to maintain a strong viable network of libraries and librarians, dedicated to making health information accessible to as many people as possible. It's in the best interest of all members to advocate for hospital libraries.

It was recently proposed that the NN/LM-NER formalize a Hospital Library Task Force to discuss a wide range of issues facing hospital libraries. The Hospital Library Task Force is part of the NER's Regional Advisory Council.

The goals of the Task Force will be:

- To inform the NNLM-NER of ongoing hospital library concerns.
- To explore strategies which promote the value of health science libraries within health care institutions.
- To devise a plan to conduct a Hospital Library Evaluation workshop.

A group of hospital librarians have met on an ad-hoc basis to discuss the "hot button" issue of hospital library accreditation. Not long ago, the Connecticut Medical Society adopted the MLA Standards for Hospital Library Accreditation.

This occurred in large part to the hard work and dedication of Jeannine Gluck and Robin Hassig. They have also taken their charge nationwide. Their continuing efforts will not be diminished nor overshadowed by formation of this task force.

The following ten members comprise the Hospital Library Task Force:

Anne Fladger	Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
Barbara Davis	South County Hospital, Wakefield, RI
Claire LaForce	Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland, VT
Denise Corless	Caritas Norwood Hospital, Norwood, MA
Happy Copley	St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Lewiston, ME
Jeannine Gluck	Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Manchester, CT
Margo Coletti	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA
Mimi Guessferd	Parkland Medical Center, Derry, NH
Robin Hassig	Danbury Hospital, Danbury, CT
Sheila Hayes	Portsmouth Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth, NH

A meeting will be planned later this Fall to discuss pressing issues and to devise a plan to conduct a Hospital Library Evaluation workshop.

SYSTEMS UPDATE

DOCLINE Release 2.2

DOCLINE 2.2 was released into production on August 3, 2004. This was a minor release of the software and does not entail major changes in functionality.

For the posted release notes:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/docline_rel_info_v2_2.html

There has been one glitch following the release: a small number of users have noticed a scripting error in "Lend". NLM has received confirmation from an IE 6 (browser) user that clearing the proxy server cache resolves the problem. IE 5.0x users are advised to upgrade their PC's to use the IE 6 browser and to also clear their proxy server cache. If anyone continues to experience a problem after these steps are taken, please fill out a "Report a Problem" form in DOCLINE.

OCLC-SERHOLD Batch Update Program

So far 49 libraries nationwide have signed up for the OCLC-SERHOLD Batch Update program. A procedure for starting the program will be detailed in a forthcoming Technical Bulletin. Libraries signing up for use of this program will have to contact OCLC directly to determine a file production schedule. NLM cannot overstress the importance of maintaining clean data in OCLC serial records before attempting to port them over to the DOCLINE system.

Level 2 SERHOLD Records

While we're on the subject of serials … NLM and the RML have recently established the goal to eliminate all encoding level 2 serial holdings from DOCLINE.

- Level 2 records are holdings records that are missing **BOTH** Volume **AND** Year.
- Level 3 records are holdings records that contain **EITHER** Volume **OR** Year.
- Level 2 records that are not upgraded to Level 3 (by adding Volume and/or Year) will be deleted by the system at the end of the calendar year.

Several DOCLINE participants have questioned whether this means that records with limited retention (such as those flagged with "latest 10 years") will need to altered. NO -- Records indicating limited retention will NOT be affected!

For an FAQ page link about serial title changes and encoding levels:

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc_titlechange.html

E-Journal Holdings in SERHOLD

Libraries that have negotiated e-journal licensing agreements which stipulate the option to provide copies of materials for ILL loans may consider adding these holdings as part of their SERHOLD records. Holdings records should be assigned the physical format -- "computer file, remote (cr)".

This is a rising trend among larger (resource) libraries; all libraries are

encouraged to go over and re-read their e-journal subscription/licensing agreements in great detail before adding/updating their holdings in SERHOLD.

DOCLINE Statistical Reports

NLM has released DOCLINE quarterly statistical reports for April-June 2004, and report 1-8A, the Ranked List of Serial Titles Requested (July 2003 - June 2004.)

NETWORK NUMBERS *(as of August 2004)*

MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL	474
FULL	249
AFFILIATE	225

LIBRARY TYPE

ACADEMIC	144
HOSPITAL	201
PUBLIC	75
OTHER	55

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

ARIEL	60
BHSL	121
EFTS	121
FREESHARE	137

Former DOCLINE Participants

Many health care institutions are finding themselves caught at the crossroads, facing tough budget decisions in a climate of spiraling health care costs and consolidation. Sadly, the medical library is all too often one of the early casualties of attrition, resulting in either a diminution in function or elimination of an entire cost center.

Below is a listing of former NER network members that at one time participated in DOCLINE but have since elected to remove their participation.

INSTITUTION	LIBID	REMOVAL DATE
Aetna, Inc.	CTUZHU	10/28/02
Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital	NHUAPK	07/08/02
Allmerica Financial	MAUAWF	12/31/02
American Nuclear Insurers	CTUBVS	Unlisted
Astra USA, Inc.	MAUASR	08/28/00
BIDMC (Needham Campus)	MAUGLM	04/28/03
BIDMC (West Campus)	MAUNEN	02/26/03
Bethany Hospital	MAUNEN	02/26/03
Boston City Hospital	MAUBCJ	02/28/02
Boston Regional Medical Center	MAUNEM	09/03/02
Brandon Training School	VTUBTV	09/03/02
Brighton Medical Center	MEUOHM	Unlisted
Cedar Crest Hospital	CTUCRN	11/19/03
Central Vermont Hospital	VTUCVB	Unlisted

Clairol Incorporated	CTUCRL	08/06/03
Clinical Communications Incorporated	CTUBXF	08/06/03
Connecticut Judicial Department	CTUHXG	09/03/02
County Courthouse	MEUBVL	09/03/02
Crompton Corporation	CTUBXC	09/03/02
Cutler U.S. Army Community Hospital	MAUCFD	Unlisted
DVA Outpatient Clinic	MAUVT	01/31/00
Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center	MAUERL	03/11/02
Fairfield Hills Hospital	CTUFHH	Unlisted
Fish & Richardson P.C.	MAUIGS	09/03/02
Franciscan Children's Hospital	MAUKMB	Unlisted
G E Plastics	MAUBQO	09/03/02
Gifford Medical Center	VTUGFM	02/14/02
Greator Bridgeport Community Mental HealthCenter	CTUGBR	11/19/03
Hartford Hospital	CTUHHG	Unlisted
Harvard Medical School-Schering Foundation	MAUHSF	Unlisted
Huggins Hospital	NHUHGW	Unlisted
Josiah B. Thomas Hospital	MAUJPT	Unlisted
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, P.C.	CTUFHS	09/03/02
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, P.C.	CTUWWU	09/03/02
Lakeville State Hospital	MAULSL	Unlisted
LRGHealthcare/Franklin Regional Hospital	NHUAGF	03/13/02
Malden Hospital	MAUMLE	02/04/00
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	MAUMRE	06/20/02
Meded	CTUBXH	09/03/02
Miriam Hospital	RIUMIR	Unlisted

Norwich Hospital	CTUNRW	08/07/03
Notre Dame College	NHUBUZ	03/11/02
Pineland Center	MEUPNL	09/03/02
Porter Medical Center	VTUPMV	Unlisted
Providence Hospital	MAUPHH	Unlisted
St. Elizabeth's Nursing School	MAUEHN	07/02/02
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center	CTUHHJ	09/03/02
St. Vincent Hospital	MAUSVI	03/24/00
Symmes Hospital & Medical Center	MAUCWW	09/21/00
Testa Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP	MAUBRX	09/03/02
TSI Mason Laboratories	MAUMRW	03/06/02
UMass Memorial-Marlborough Hospital (*6)	MAUMRM	06/30/03
Uncas on Thames Hospital	CTUUOT	Unlisted
VA Boston Healthcare System - Boston Campus	MAUVHB	07/02/02
Waltham Hospital	MAUWAN	06/30/03
Wing Memorial Hospital	MAUWMP	03/07/02
Winsted Memorial Hospital	CTUWIH	Unlisted
Worcester City Hiospital	MAUWCI	Unlisted
Worcester Foundation For Biomedical Research	MAUWFB	06/22/00
Worcester Hahnemann Hospital	MAUWHN	Unlisted
Wrentham Developmental Center	MAUZGQ	11/03/03
Youville School of Nursing	MAUBUK	06/11/02

NER

NEW MEMBERS

Let us ring in and welcome new members to the NER - libraries that have joined the NN/LM network since the beginning of May 2004!

Bristol Community College	MAUJVT	Fall River
Kent Memorial Library	CTUJSZ	Kent, CT
Laconia Public Library	NHUJUV	Laconia, NH
Nashoba Valley Medical Center	MAUNCE	Ayer, MA
New England Institute of Technology	RIUJUX	Warwick, RI
New England School of Accupuncture	MAUACU	Watertown, MA
Peabody Institute Library of Danvers	MAUJVL	Danvers, MA
Prince Memorial Library	MEUJWY	Cumberland, ME
Windham Public Library	MEUJWU	Windham, ME

HELP? ADVICE? QUESTIONS?

Please contact Mark at the RML:
508-856-5964 -or- mark.goldstein@umassmed.edu.

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INside OUTreach

The NER is fast approaching one of its busiest times of the year. Autumn comes and the staff here switches into high gear with classes scheduled and the start of the exhibiting season. This column will clue you in to where we'll be exhibiting, give you a heads up about classes in the region, remind you about NLM promotional materials, and point out some new resources available on the NER website.

Exhibiting

This fall, you can find the NER staff at the following conferences and meetings. If you or any of your colleagues will be participating in any of these events, please stop by and say hello!

LGBTI Health Summit 2004
http://www.healthsummit2004.org
August 25-29, 2004
Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge, MA
Donna Berryman will be presenting NLM Health Resources at this meeting.

NBC 10 HealthFit Expo
This one is open to the public, it's free, and it's a lot of fun for everyone! Last year, there were cooking demonstrations, dancing demos, a scuba diving pond, a rock wall, free health screenings,and lots of exhibitors - including the NER!
http://www.turnto10.com/healthfitexpo/index.html to see images from last year's event
Sept. 11-12, 2004
Providence, RI Convention Center

NELA - New England Library Association
http://www.nelib.org/
Sept 26-28, 2004
Manchester, NH
We'll have a booth at this event. In addition, Michelle Eberle and Donna Berryman will be presenting "ReferenceRx" on 9/28.

NAHSL - North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries

http://www.nahsl.org/

Oct. 2-5, 2004

Sebasco Harbor Estates, Maine

Michelle Eberle will be offering "Caring for the mind: Providing reference services for mental health information" as an MLA CE course.

National Community Pharmacists Association

http://www.ncpanet.org/

Oct. 9-13, 2004

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

American Academy of Family Physicians

http://www.aafp.org/

Oct. 13-17, 2004

Orlando, FL

Maine Library Association

http://mainelibraries.info/

Oct 17-19, 2004

Civic Center, Augusta, ME

In addition to exhibiting, Michelle Eberle will be offering two presentations: "Prescription for Success: MedlinePlus" and "PubMed Basics."

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

http://www.aasld.org/

Oct. 30-Nov 1, 2004

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Association of American Medical Colleges

http://www.aamc.org/

Nov. 5-10, 2004

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

http://www.acaai.org/index.shtml

Nov. 12-17, 2004

Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Classes

Check the calendar on our website for information on upcoming classes in the region. And, remember, if you are interested in hosting a class or if you are responsible for CME for your organization, remember the NER. We can work with you to design a class that's suitable for your situation and constituents. Give us a call or send us an email

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Promotional Items

The NLM Gift Shop (http://www.nlmgiftshop.org/) is a good source for NLM-themed items. If you're looking for an NLM sweatshirt or nightshirt, that's the place to go!

If, however, you're looking for PubMed or MedlinePlus bookmarks or brochures to have available for your patrons or to give away at your library's open house, feel free to contact the NER. We can help you out with small supplies of such materials. Should you find you need larger quantities, the NER may not be able to handle those requests, but we should be able to put you in touch with someone from NLM who could.

Newly Available on the NER Website

There are new offerings on the NER website! Check out the following under Online Resources for Librarians and Health Professionals:

(1) PubMed Search Tags & Field Qualifiers Guide: a handy one-page reference sheet to the search tags and field qualifiers in PubMed. This sheet can be customized to promote your library. Print it out, fold it in half, and laminate it to make a convenient reference card. Special thanks go to Susan Orlando, librarian at the Forsyth Institute, for championing this effort, and Michelle Eberle for doing the layout.

(2) PubMed Point-Blank:this is a PowerPoint introduction to using the PubMed database. Use it as is or customize it to meet your needs.

(3) Resources for Individuals New to Health Science Librarians: links to all sorts of information the new (and not-so-new) medical librarian. A special thanks to all the members of the Education and Training Committee for their help in assembling this information.

Donna Berryman, Outreach Coordinator

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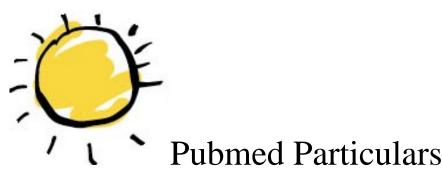http://nnlm.gov/ner/newsletter/15/insideoutreach15.html (3 of 3) [9/13/2004 10:41:31 AM]

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Pubmed Particulars

PubMed Toppings: Adding Sprinkles to PubMed

Generally, this column is devoted to exploring some facet of PubMed itself. This time around, there's a bit of a different slant: delicious PubMed toppings. Other groups/organizations have built services that, in their opinion, enhance PubMed or provide services that PubMed itself does not. Some of these may be extremely useful to librarians, so PubMed Particulars is taking a walk up to the counter and ordering dessert.

Alerting Services

As of this writing, PubMed is unable to automatically notify you when citations of interest are added to the database. Yes, search strategies can be stored in the Cubby and then, with a click, it is possible to see what's been added to PubMed since the last time the search was run. However, PubMed's Cubby waits for you to come to it. It can't push information to you. NLM is working on developing that capability, but it's not available yet. In the meantime, here are brief introductions to two free alerting services that are worth looking into: PubCrawler and BioMail.

PubCrawler
http://pubcrawler.gen.tcd.ie/

PubCrawler wins the award for the best slogan: "It goes to the library. You go to the pub." It was developed by Karsten Hokamp and Ken Wolfe from the Department of Genetics at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

PubCrawler will perform scheduled searches of PubMed (it will also search NCBI's Nucleotide Database) and, via email, notify the user when the search has been completed along with new citations that meet the search criteria.

Registration is required and then users may set up their queries using the PubCrawler Configurator (see the website). If you loved Internet Grateful Med, you'll probably like the Configurator as its format is reminiscent of IGM. There are boxes in which to enter terms and then drop-down menus for selecting the search tag to be associated with that term. The developers recommend that search strategies be tried out in PubMed before being saved in PubCrawler and they also refer users to PubMed's Help in order to learn to build effective search strategies. Queries may be modified at any time. As for notification: users may choose whether to receive the full results via email or simply receive an email with a link to a web page that contains the results. And PubMed's Related Articles feature is available for the results.

Results are archived for a specified period of time on a designated web page, so it is possible to go back and look at results that were obtained on a given date.

It's totally free! And it's easy to use. PubCrawler has excellent help and a good FAQ.

BioMail

http://biomail.org/

BioMail was written and developed by Dmitry Mozzherin, Alfonso Ali Herrera, and Holly Miller, and the BioMail Team from the State University of New York at Stony Brook with funding help from the National Library of Medicine.

This is another totally free service that is very easy to use. BioMail will search PubMed or NCBI's Nucleotide database.

Once again, registration is required. Then, users can enter a search strategy and set the schedule for searching. Here, too, it is recommended that people test their searches out in PubMed first. BioMail allows the use of PubMed's field tags and search qualifiers. Results are sent via email either as an HTML attachment, as an HTML formatted email, or in a text email, according to the user's specifications.

There are some really nice things about BioMail. One is that users could literally copy a search strategy from their PubMed Cubby and paste it right into the search box in BioMail. Another is

that the results come with several options:

- collecting (storing) selected citations in a "Reference Treasury" - somewhat similar to PubMed's Clipboard without the expiration date;

- button for displaying results in the MEDLINE format - required for importing citations into bibliographic software; and,

- results come with one-button access to the BioMail configuration page for changing individual settings.

Once again, BioMail is totally free and easy to use with an excellent FAQ and helps along the way.

Other Alerting Services Exist……..

And readers may wish to share their experiences with them via the NAHSL-l list.

Donna Berryman, Outreach Coordinator

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Tech Time

Have You Read Any Good Blogs Lately?

So, what are these blogs that are appearing on the Web? How are they different from Web Pages, listservs, and email? How do you find out about blogs in your areas of interest? What is the best way to stay current with new postings on each of the blogs you monitor?

A Weblog (or blog) is a Web site that is structured like an online journal. Postings are organized by date, with the most recent appearing first. Many blogs are interactive…allowing readers to add comments to individual postings. It is usually possible to review archived postings by date. Some blogs also allow readers to browse postings by author or subject, and search postings. The activity of updating a blog is known as *blogging*, and a person who updates a blog is known as a *blogger*.

One of the big advantages of a blog is that content is added to the site without using HTML. This means that bloggers just need a Web connection to add new content. So hopefully, new content is added on a regular basis.

Finding Blogs in your Areas of Interest

Directories
A good place to start is the Google Directory listing for blogs:
http://directory.google.com/Top/Computers/Internet/On_the_Web/Weblogs/
As you can see, there are thousands of blogs listed. However, many are not updated on a regular basis.

A directory of library Weblogs can be found at:
http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html

Some blogs that may be of particular interest to health science librarians include:

Hospital Library Advocacy
http://hosplib.blogspot.com/

Administered by Jeannie Gluck, Director of the Medical Library at Eastern Connecticut Health Network. The blog brings together "resources related to hospital library advocacy: standards and their promotion, making the business case for library services, promotion of library within the hospital and to outside organizations, etc." The site will help you answer the question when your administration asks, "Why do we need a health science library in the hospital?"

Bringing Health Information to the Community
http://medstat.med.utah.edu/blogs/BHIC/
Community Health Information Blog by Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, Community Outreach Liaison from the Mid-Continent Region of NNLM.

Open Access News
http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html
This site includes information on the latest news and background information related to open access issues. Topics include putting peer-reviewed scientific and scholarly literature on the internet, and making it available free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

Library Blogs
Below are some of the more popular library related blogs:
http://theshiftedlibrarian.com
http://librarystuff.net
http://www.resourceshelf.com
http://librarian.net
http://www.lisnews.com
http://www.lisfeeds.com

Stay Current with RSS

So now you identified several blogs with interesting content. How do remain current? Do you have to go to each site and check to see if there is new information?

Of course not! RSS to the rescue!

Many blogs support RSS *(**R**DF Site Summary, **R**eally Simple Syndication or **R**ich Site Summary)*. With RSS, a user subscribes to the blog's RSS feed and is notified when new content is added to the site. Content is quickly viewed by clicking on a hyperlink.

It's easy to take advantage of this capability:

1. Install news aggregator or feed reader software on your computer, or use one of the Web-based news aggregator services. Below are some lists of recommended feed readers. (I use Bloglines)
    - **Top 10 Free Windows RSS Feed Readers / News Aggregators**
      http://email.about.com/cs/rssfeedreaders/tp/windows_free.htm
    - **Top Picks from blogspace.com**
      http://blogspace.com/rss/readers

2. Subscribe to the blogs and newsfeeds that interest you.
    ❍ Look for information on the Web site on how to subscribe. Many sites have an RSS or XML logo, or will have statements such as "syndicate this site", "feed", or "RSS feed".
    ❍ Copy the URL associated with one of the statements above to the subscription information in the news reader.
3. Wait to be notified about new postings!

Additional information about RSS can be found in an Technology Notes article by Greg Bodin, the Technology Coordinator from NN/LM South Central Region. http://nnlm.gov/scr/scnn/mar-apr04/technotes.htm

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about blogs or RSS.

Penny Glassman
Technology Coordinator

NLM | NN/LM | NER

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NER'eastah

Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

In This Issue:

Consumer Health Information

CHIC CHAT

Consumer Health Library Profile

Brigham & Women's Hospital
The Michele and Howard Kessler Health Education Library

The Michele and Howard Kessler Health Education Library opened in November 2000, as a component of Brigham and Women's Hospital's Health Promotion and Education Program. The

Kessler Health Education Library is a vibrant, thriving center that supports over 11,000 visitors annually, answering approximately 100 questions per month and providing circulation services to over 700 borrowers. Library staff and volunteers strive to create a warm, supportive atmosphere where patients and families feel comfortable while gathering the information they need to understand their conditions and treatment options. This article will discuss some of the creative programs that Program Manager Cara Helfner has initiated at the BWH Michele and Howard Kessler Health Education Library.

Morning Film Series

In January 2002, the library began its series of "Morning Films at the Kessler Library". Each morning upon opening the library shows a different health education film from its collection. Films are chosen according to national health themes, such as American Heart Month and National Diabetes Week. They are shown Mondays through Friday at 10 am. Topics have included controlling cholesterol, healthy eating, and quitting smoking.

The library has also aired special film events, such as the weeklong PBS documentary "The Secret Life of the Brain" during Brain Awareness Week and Brigham and Women's Hospital's Live WebCasts, which feature surgical procedures as they are performed, along with doctors' commentary.

BookTalks

Cara began the BookTalk program in 2001. BookTalks are held every Monday at 1pm, with many "regulars" enjoying the exchange of new ideas in health and wellness, a supportive community of readers, and the opportunity to be the first to borrow new titles. She delivers many of the BookTalks herself, with guest authors and speakers from the Brigham and Women's Hospital community at least once a month. Some books by BWH authors discussed at BookTalks include "The Gift of Health", "The Arthritis Action Program", "Your New Baby", "6 Steps to Increased Fertility", "Transplant: From Myth to Reality" and "The Harvard Medical School Guide to Taking Control of Asthma." A special BookTalk was delivered in 2003 by BWH Medical Library Director Anne Fladger, who contributed to the Health Commons Institute book "Seniors on the Internet: A Health Education Guide."

Presentations and Outreach

The Kessler Library has held numerous presentations throughout the years. In April 2003, Cara and Molly Folly, Faulkner Hospital Library Director, taught an educational session on where to find and access the latest health information, both in print and online. The presentations are posted on the BWH and the Faulkner websites.

In September 2003, the Kessler Library hosted the Partners Consumer Health Library Information Consortium meeting where Cara presented "Developing Intranet Sites for Health Education". This presentation included a behind-the-scenes look at how the Kessler Library Intranet Site was developed that included sketches, focus group research and feedback from the oversight committee.

Children's Programs

Young visitors to the library can showcase their creations in a special "Artwork by Kids", book or even in a frame in the library's Children's Section for all to see. Colored papers, pencils, watercolor crayons and collage materials are available for youngsters to create their masterpieces. Cara offers to read a story to every picture-book-age youngster who visits, and older kids can try their luck at a treasure hunt, winning prizes for finding pictures, definitions and call numbers in the library.

Disabilities Programs

The library was awarded a two year Serving People with Disabilities grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner in November 2003 through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). An MLS candidate from the University of Rhode Island, Matt Kramer, was hired as an intern to staff the program. The $20,000 grant is being used to increase awareness of the library's resources to the hospital's staff, patients and community and to provide technologies and resources in many alternative formats to address a variety of disabilities. Library staff and volunteers are receiving training on disabilities issues to improve service levels and provide end-user training to patients and families.

Resources and services for people with disabilities initiated to date include - an adaptive workstation with special keyboards and trackballs, Web and Intranet pages to help people with disabilities access library information, a Books-by-Mail Program, a TTY telephone, print magnification and book reaching devices, and materials in alternative formats, such as Books on Tape and Braille (received through an affiliation with Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library).

Focus on Technology

The Kessler Library was the first library ever to purchase Gale's Virtual Reference System in 2004, offering patrons access to a selective family of medical eEncylopedias as a component of the InfoTrac database. Cara has worked with BWH IS to set up Intranet-launchable CD-ROM programs and the library's Intranet provides interactive forms for users to submit a reference question or recommend a book title.

The Kessler-L ListServe was launched in July 2002. Users are updated via e-mail each month about the newest resources in the library, including books, pamphlets, eBooks, Books-on-Tape, CD-ROM programs and more. Each list includes an original abstract of a "featured book". Kessler-L is open to all BWH patients, family members and friends, providers and the community, with users hailing as far away as the Philippines.

Reaching Out

It's the little things that mean a lot to someone while they're in the hospital and recuperating. In February staff and volunteers make handcrafted "Healthy Valentines" that visitors can give to loved ones, with sayings like, "let's quit smoking together." Information and resources can be delivered to patient's bedside upon request. Every person who submits a reference question receives a phone call to check whether the information was received and answered all their questions, and if there is anything else the Kessler Library can do to help them. Many people who visit the Michele and Howard Kessler Health Education Library while they or their family

member receive care at Brigham and Women's Hospital like it so much that they even decide to volunteer.

-Michelle Eberle and Cara Helfner

Consumer Health News from the National Library of Medicine

MedlinePlus®   Introducing NIH SeniorHealth

Find a Hospital Directory

On Tuesday, July 27th, the National Library of Medicine will release a new Find a Hospital directory search. From MedlinePlus, users can search for information on over 6,000 hospitals in the United States, including address, specialty, services provided, and driving directions. The hospital data comes from the American Hospital Association and the mapping feature is provided by MapQuest. The Find a Hospital Directory will be linked from the MedlinePlus Directories page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/directories.html Information Prescription Project

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American College of Physicians Foundation (ACPF) have teamed up to create the Information Prescription project that encourages physicians to refer their patients to NLM's MedlinePlus, as a trusted and reliable source of information on their health and medical conditions. This initiative is an important effort by NLM and the ACPF to advance the goal of achieving a health-literate population that is empowered to take an active and positive role in its health care, and to provide the nation's physicians with a valuable patient education tool that captures and filters the best health information available on the Internet. In April 2004, the Information Rx Project was launched nationally at the American College of Physicians annual session in New Orleans. In May 2004, the Information Rx Tool Kit for librarians was launched nationally at the Medical Libraries Association annual conference in Washington D.C. This tool kit is designed to assist librarians in any outreach efforts for the Information Prescription project. The tool kit was created with assistance and material from several Virginia academic health sciences libraries, the Middle Atlantic Regional Medical Library, and NLM. We invite you to be a part of this important Information Rx project. To learn more about the project, the tool kit, and how your library can participate, please visit, http://nnlm.gov/hip/InfoRx.

Free Publicity of your Library's Services in the MedlinePlus Find a Library Directory

Just a reminder that if your library provides health information for the public, your library qualifies to be listed in MedlinePlus' Find a Library directory. If you are a Docline member, you may add your library to the Find a Library directory in MedlinePlus in your Docline user profile. If you do not have a Docline member, contact me at michelle.eberle@umassmed.edu to be listed in the MedlinePlus Find a Library. Let's aim for a true representation of the services that are already being provided in our region in the directory. To see how well library's in your state are listed, go to http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/libraries.html and select your state.

-Michelle Eberle

NIH Senior Health News

On August 12, NIHSeniorHealth (http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov) added a "printer-friendly" version. This change allows users to easily print NIHSeniorHealth content. Until now, printing a topic involved printing dozens of individual of screens. Now, by clicking the new printer-friendly icon on the left menu, users can print selected chapters or a complete topic such as "Arthritis" or "Prostate Cancer."

In addition to the "printer-friendly" version, the accessibility buttons at the top of every NIHSeniorHealth page are easier to use. The text size button now allows for more text sizes. The contrast and speech options clearly indicate whether those features are on or off. NIHSeniorHealth now also provides a new message, when necessary, to remind users to turn off their browser pop-up blocker when they choose the speech option.

NIHSeniorHealth, launched in October 2003, is a partnership of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health.

"Bringing Health Information to the Community" Blog

NN/LM's MidContinental Region announces the launch of the "Bringing Health Information to the Community" Blog: http://medstat.med.utah.edu/blogs/BHIC/

Postings on this blog include conferences, grants, articles, minority health concerns, rural health concerns, and more, that would be of interest to community-based organizations that include health as part of their outreach.

Please feel free to spread the word, as the information is rarely of a regional nature. There is a way to sign up to recieve an email every time an item is posted to the blog. A warning that at times this can be up to 4 emails a day, while at other times there are very few posts made.

-announcement by M. Boer

NLM | NN/LM | NER

Comments to:
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*July-August
Volume 4 - Issue 2*

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The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester, MA has an opening for an Assistant Catalog Librarian.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF POSITION: Reports to the Associate Director for Technical Services and works closely with the Catalog Librarian. Is responsible for cataloging and classification of library materials in compliance with national standards. Special emphasis is on electronic and digital materials.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Prepares/edits copy and original cataloging for library materials of all formats (print/fiche, audiovisual, electronic/digital) on OCLC and the Library's ILS, using National Library of medicine classification and subject headings and AACR2.
2. Responsible for authority files, database management and clean-up of on-line catalog records for all formats.
3. Prepares cataloging records and pathfinders for electronic materials.
4. Downloads records and produces labels as appropriate.
5. Responds to/resolves problems arising from cataloging operations.
6. Trains and supervises assigned hourly assistants.
7. Participates in Library professional staff meetings and consortia meetings.
8. Participates on Library teams and/or committees.
9. Other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Masters degree in library science from an ALA-accredited program.
2. At least one year's professional experience in cataloging in a medical or academic library preferred.
3. Experience with NLM classification, AACR2, MARC formats, authority control principles and practices.
4. Familiarity and experience with OCLC, online catalogs, integrated library systems (Endeavor's Voyager preferred), and knowledge management.
5. Demonstrated computer literacy, working knowledge of database and word processing applications. Ability to accurately enter data into online systems. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing to techical and non-technical audiences.

6. Evidence of ability to work effectively under pressure in a rapidly changing environment.
7. Evidence of individual and team leadership skills.
8. High level of energy, creativity, and problem solving ability.
9. Understanding of the environment of academic health centers, and familiarity with current trends in library and information management.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the direction of the Associate Director for Technical Services and in close collaboration with the Catalog Librarian and other Technical Services staff.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Provides functional supervision for any assigned hourly assistants.

Please send a cover letter, resume and the names of three references to:

Deanna Lucia
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55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655
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Fax number: 508-856-5039

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
NIH News
National Institutes of Health

National Library of Medicine
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **CONTACT: Kathleen Cravedi**

Wednesday, July 28, 2004   **301/594-7170; 240/418-7491 (cell)**

National Institutes of Health's "ClinicalTrials.gov"
Web Site Wins Prestigious Award
Web site gives patients and families facing life-threatening illnesses
access to centralized information on clinical trials

(Bethesda, MD)-ClinicalTrials.gov, the Web site developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) as an information service of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), was the recipient of Harvard University's prestigious "Oscar" of government awards-the Innovations in American Government Award. ClinicalTrials.gov, one of five winners of the award, will receive a $100,000 grant to support its replication.

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson noted that ClinicalTrials.gov is a good example of how government can improve access to vital health care information for all Americans. "It is an important element in this Administration's initiative to improve the health care system through the application of advanced health information technology," Secretary Thompson said.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., Director of the National Institutes of Health, added, "We are extremely proud of this resource. It is accessible to all and written in a manner that patients can understand. The site tells the public about the location of clinical trials, what they are trying to do, where they are located and how any member of the public can volunteer to participate. Even more, it links to additional information about diseases and disorders. We are delighted by this recognition."

ClinicalTrials.gov grew out of 1997 legislation that required HHS to broaden the public's access to information about clinical trials on a wide range of serious or life-threatening diseases by establishing a registry for both federally and privately funded trials (http://clinical trials.gov/). ClinicalTrials.gov is a completely confidential Web site. No registration or personal identification of any kind is required. People who search the site are not contacted by the sponsors of clinical trials or anyone else.

"Created in 2000, the Web site gives patients and families convenient access to information on clinical trials for a wide range of diseases and conditions," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., Director of the National Library of Medicine. "If we are to continue to make the giant strides in diagnosis, treatment, and cure of illness that marked the last century, we must have the participation in clinical trials by well-informed volunteers."

Alexa T. McCray, Ph.D., who directs the ClinicalTrials.gov project, remarked, "Most gratifying to us has been the reaction of our users. Our primary, overriding goal is to provide patients, their families, and other interested individuals with high-quality, reliable health information."

Traffic on the site is one measure of its value. Since its inception, the site has logged more than 75 million hits. During the last two years, daily visitors to the site have more than doubled from 7,130 to 16,055. In February 2000, ClinicalTrials.gov included about 4,400 trials. Today, that number has more than doubled to 11,000.

The Innovations in American Government Awards is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

Located in Bethesda, Maryland, the National Library of Medicine, the world's largest library of the health sciences, is a component of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

From the *NLM Technical Bulletin*

Notes from the MLA 2004 NLM Online Users Meeting are available. This includes remarks, questions and answers, and the PowerPoint presentations used in the NLM Exhibit Booth.
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ja04/ja04_mla_sk.html

PubMed Central - New journals added http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ja04/ja04_pmc.html

New books added to the Bookshelf
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ja04/ja04_technote.html#books

Search PubMed directly from the Household Products Database
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ja04/ja04_house.html

HSTAT moves to the Bookshelf
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj04/mj04_hstat.html

Toxics Release Inventory expands reporting years
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj04/mj04_technote.html#tri

Donald A. B. Lindberg Research Fellowship

The Lindberg Research Fellowship Endowment, established in 2003, will provide a $25,000 grant, awarded annually by MLA through a competitive grant process. The purpose of this fellowship is to fund research aimed at expanding the research knowledgebase, linking the information services provided by librarians to improved health care and advances in biomedical research.

Application deadline is November 15.

Award Recipient

- **2004:** Timothy Patrick, Ph.D.
- **2003:** Catherine Arnott Smith, Ph.D.

For more information about any of MLA's grants or scholarships, contact Lisa C. Fried(mlapd2@mlahq.org), 312.419.9094 x28.

March of Dimes Perinatal Data Center launches new PeriStats Web site

NEW PERISTATS WEBSITE PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO MORE THAN 60,000 GRAPHS, MAPS, AND TABLES ON PERINATAL HEALTH

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., AUGUST 17, 2004 - The March of Dimes announced today that it has released a complete redesign of its popular PeriStats Web site, offering the most current and detailed maternal and infant health statistics available in the United States. Funding was provided by the

National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health through a 2-year grant collaboration with the New York Academy of Medicine.

See the full press release at:

http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/whatsnew.aspx?id=1

The Peristats Website is located at: http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/

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Newsletter of the New England Regional Medical Library

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